- Special thrust to rural and small tourism development; and
- To concentrate on issues relating to social and cultural values, good behaviour and civic administration and better administration.

Negligence of ASI

†2201. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that historical memorials, sites and heritages scattered throughout the country are facing danger to be ruined because of negligent attitude;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the situation has become grave as Archaeological Survey of India is not discharging its responsibilities;

(d) if so, whether Government are going to take some concrete steps to do away with the prevailing discrepancies therein and to make it accountable; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) to (e) No, Sir. The Archaeological Survey of India has 3606 Centrally Protected Monuments which are being maintained with the available resources as per archaeological norms.

Allocation of funds for Temples in Madurai

2202. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of popularity and importance of Meenakshi Amman Temple and Lord Karthik Temple at Tirupurakundram in Madurai;

(b) if so, whether any special funds are allocated by Archaeological Survey of India for their maintenance every year; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Since the temples have not been declared as protected monuments under the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1958, no funds have been allocated by the Archaeological Survey of India for their maintenance.

Maintenance of historical sites

2203. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:
SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR:

Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are any proposals by the ASI for maintaining important historical sites in Delhi, Agra, Jaipur and Goa where maximum foreign tourists visit;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether Government propose to take action against such miscreants who cause damage to our heritage sites?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN):(a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Besides maintenance and conservation of the Centrally Protected Monuments, the Archaeological Survey of India is formulating perspective plans for the conservation and development of the (1) Red Fort (2) Humayun's Tomb (3) Qutab Minar in Delhi (4) Taj Mahal (5) Agra Fort and (6) Fatehpur Sikri in Agra. For Churches in Old Goa and also Kumbalgarh Fort and Chittorgarh Fort in Rajashthan.

(c) The miscreants causing damage to the Centally Protected Monuments are dealt with as per the provisions of the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act,1958.

Problems of the domestic Hoteliers

2204. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the newsitem captioned, "Hoteliers look for growth abroad with tourism hit" which appeared in The Business Standard, dated the 20th June, 2002;